

**REPRODUCTIVE MEDICINE GUIDELINES**

The recent birth of octuplets resulting from the in vitro fertilization of a woman who is already the mother to six young children, also reportedly born using this method, and who, according to media reports, may have difficulty meeting the children's needs, raises serious concerns about the ethics and behavior of the physician involved. Additionally, the press is reporting that there is currently another expectant mother, who is carrying quadruplets, also as a result of in vitro fertilization by the same physician, who was reportedly transferred from a private hospital to a County facility due to her lack of health insurance. While the decision to have children is a personal one, the actions of this physician have potentially compromised the health and safety of both the mothers and the babies. What kind of physical and mental health assessments did this doctor do to make sure these and other women he treated were appropriate candidates for in vitro fertilization before performing the procedure?

The American Society of Reproductive Medicine establishes clinical guidelines to direct the management of this procedure, however they have indicated that in the octuplet case, it appears their guidelines were not followed. The State licensing agencies, in this case the Medical Board of California, should be evaluating physician compliance with these and other clinical standards when assessing whether a doctor is fit to practice medicine in California.

As a result of the actions of this doctor, the long-term health and safety of these infants is in question, due not only to the health problems that may arise from a multiple delivery, but also from the challenges of raising 14 children as a single parent with unclear means of income and support.

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**MOTION**

Molina	_____
Ridley-Thomas	_____
Yaroslavsky	_____
Antonovich	_____
Knabe	_____

**I, THEREFORE, MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors send five-signature letters to **the following regarding Reproductive Medicine Guidelines:**

1. The American Society of Reproductive Medicine, commending them for undertaking a review of this case and also to urge them to further review and take any necessary actions to strengthen the existing clinical guidelines governing in vitro fertilization and fertility treatments to ensure the health of prospective mothers and babies are not endangered; and
2. **During the licensing and evaluation process**, the California Medical Board **move judiciously in assessing whether** the physician under review **followed the Medical Practice Act, the normal Standards of Care, and complied** with clinically-established guidelines developed by the respective expert medical society. In this case, as well as in other instances in which it is determined a physician acted not in accordance with **the Medical Practice Act and established** clinical guidelines, and placed the patient at undue risk, the Medical Board should **take appropriate action swiftly, within due process as required by law, to determine the physician's fitness to practice medicine.**

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